

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A method of inventorying at least one transponder by means of a communication station, wherein the communication station emits an unmodulated carrier signal in a communications range, and wherein the transponder on entering the communications range independently generates a presence-signaling signal and emits-a the presence-signaling signal in the communications range, and wherein the communication station on receiving a presence-signaling signal emits an inventorying command signal in the communications range, and wherein the transponder on receiving the inventorying command signal emits a response signal in the communications range permitting the inventorying of the transponders, and wherein the communication station, on correctly receiving a response signal undertakes inventorying of the transponders, wherein the transponder emits the presence-signaling signal with a first signal duration and the response signal with a second signal duration, and wherein the first signal duration is shorter than the second signal duration.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first signal duration and the second signal duration have a ratio of 1:X, and in that the value X lies in a range between X=10 and X=100, wherein the presence-signaling signal is not assigned to the transponder.

4. (canceled)

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transponder emits a presence-signaling signal with a first transmission parameter and a response signal with a second transmission parameter.

6. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein one of two different subcarrier frequencies of each subcarrier signal is used, one as first transmission parameter and one as second transmission parameter, wherein the two different subcarrier frequencies are 283 kilohertz and 424 kilohertz.

7. (currently amended) A communication station for communication with at least one transponder and for inventorying at least one transponder, wherein station transmission means are provided for emitting and receiving signals, and wherein carrier signal generating means are provided for generating an unmodulated carrier signal, the unmodulated carrier signal being emitted by the station transmission means in a communications range, and wherein presence-signaling signal detection means are provided for detecting a presence-signaling signal that is independently generated and emitted by the transponder and received by the station transmission means, and wherein inventorying command signal generating means that can be activated as a function of the detection of a presence-signaling signal are provided for generating an inventorying command signal, and wherein response signal detection means are provided for detecting a response signal which is generated and emitted by the transponder in response to a received inventorying command signal and is received by the station transmission means and which permits inventorying of the transponders, wherein a signal duration of the presence-signaling signal is shorter than a signal duration of the response signal, and wherein inventorying means are provided for inventorying the transponder as a function of the correctly received response signal.

8. (currently amended) A transponder for communication with a communication station, wherein transponder transmission means are provided for emitting and receiving signals, and wherein carrier signal detection means are provided for detecting an unmodulated carrier signal generated and emitted by the communication station and received by the

transponder transmission means, and wherein presence-signaling signal generating means that can be activated as a function of the detection of an unmodulated carrier signal are provided for independently generating a presence-signaling signal, and wherein inventorying command signal detection means are provided for detecting an inventorying command signal generated and emitted by the communication station and received by the transponder transmission means, and wherein response signal generating means that can be activated as a function of the detection of the inventorying command signal are provided for generating a response signal permitting the inventorying of the transponder, wherein the presence-signaling signal generating means generates the presence-signaling signal with a first signal duration and wherein the response signal generating means generates the response signal with a second signal duration, and wherein the first signal duration is shorter than the second signal duration.

9. (canceled)

10. (currently amended) A transponder as claimed in claim 8, wherein the first signal duration and the second signal duration have a ratio of 1:X, the value X lying in a range between X=10 and X=100, wherein the presence-signaling signal is not assigned to the transponder.

11. (canceled)

12. (original) A transponder as claimed in claim 8, wherein the transponder is designed to generate a presence-signaling signal with a first transmission parameter and to generate a response signal with a second transmission parameter.

13. (original) A transponder as claimed in claim 12, wherein the first transmission parameter and the second transmission parameter are each formed by one of two different subcarrier frequencies of each subcarrier signal.

14. (currently amended) An integrated circuit for a transponder for communication with a communication station, wherein at least one connection is provided for emitting and receiving signals, and wherein carrier signal detection means are provided for detecting an unmodulated carrier signal generated and emitted by the communication station and received via at least one connection, and wherein presence-signaling signal generating means that can be activated as a function of the detection of an unmodulated carrier signal are provided for independently generating a presence-signaling signals, and wherein inventorying command signal detection means are provided for detecting an inventorying command signal generated and emitted by the communication station and received via at least one connection, and wherein response signal generating means that can be activated as a function of the detection of the inventorying command signal are provided for generating a response signal permitting the inventorying of the transponder, wherein the presence-signaling signal generating means generates the presence-signaling signal with a first signal duration and wherein the response signal generating means generates the response signal with a second signal duration, and wherein the first signal duration is shorter than the second signal duration.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the first signal duration and the second signal duration have a ratio of 1:X, and in that the value X lies in a range between X=10 and X=100, wherein the presence-signaling signal is not assigned to the transponder.

17. (original) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 16, wherein the value X lies in a range between X=20 and X=35.

18. (original) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the integrated circuit is designed to generate a presence-signaling signal with a first transmission parameter and to generate a response signal with a second transmission parameter.

19. (original) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 18, wherein the first transmission parameter and the second transmission parameter are each formed by one of two different subcarrier frequencies of each subcarrier signal.

20. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the presence-signaling signal does not include an identification data ID of the transponder and wherein the response signal includes the identification data ID of the transponder.

21. (previously presented) A transponder as claimed in claim 8, wherein the presence-signaling signal does not include an identification data ID of the transponder.

22. (previously presented) An integrated circuit as claimed in claim 14, wherein the presence-signaling signal does not include an identification data ID of the transponder.

23. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transponder on entering the communications range generates and emits a plurality of presence-signaling signals in the communications range at random intervals to ensure that the communication station reliably receives at least one of the plurality of presence-signaling signal generated and emitted by the transponder.

24. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 23, wherein the transponder terminates generation and emission of the plurality of presence-signaling signals on receiving the inventorying command signal.

25. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transponder on entering the communications range generates and emits a plurality of presence-signaling signals in the communications range repeatedly at recurrent intervals to ensure that the communication station reliably receives at least one of the plurality of presence-signaling signal generated and emitted by the transponder.